NIH Library News

Accessing Library Resources from Home

Accessing library resources from home is **easy!** If you have a **home computer** with a **modem,** you now can do a MEDLINE search, or browse the most recent issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* at any time of the **day or night.**

To access Internet Grateful Med and other library resources such as the Ovid Web Gateway, online journals, or the Library catalog, you will **need** to use the **Parachute** service available **from DCRT.** Many of the library resources are located on **secure pages** and are only accessible from computers **within the NIH network.** If you try to access these resources when using an Internet supplier such as America Online or Erol's, you will not be allowed entry. The Parachute system lets you dial into an NIH server and connect from there to other resources, as if you were actually on an NIH computer.

To get started with Parachute, contact DCRT at **594-DCRT.** You will **need** to establish a **DCRT account,** if you don't already have one. At a minimum your **modem** must be 9600 baud. The maximum modem speed is 28.8 baud. DCRT recommends **Windows95** as the **preferred** platform **for PC users,** because of its built-in network capabilities. More information about Parachute can be found at **http://parachute.dcrt. nih.gov/Parachute.htm.**

You also need several pieces of software in order to use Parachute to access the Internet and e-mail, or to FTP files. DCRT supplies a suite of **freeware products** on diskette (**Rip Cord**) for **Windows** and **Windows95** users. **Macintosh** users can find the same **files** separately **on Pubnet.** A Web browser is another essential. Internet Explorer is the **Web browser** provided by DCRT.

To access the Library from home, start up the Parachute connection. When you connect, click on your Web browser. Use **http://libwww. ncrr.nih.gov** to get to the Library's Home Page. From this page you can access our catalog, read full-text journals, go to Internet Grateful Med, or search Embase, PsycINFO, or Biological Abstracts via the Ovid Web Gateway.

Internet Grateful Med provides full access to MEDLINE, **Loansome Doc,** and selected other NLM databases. It can be found at **http://igm.nlm.nih.gov.** You also can **install Grateful Med** on your home computer* and, using your modem, dial in directly to NLM's computers. In either case you will need a MEDLINE code. Call 6-1156 for information about how to obtain a code.

* Copies of Grateful Med for DOS can be made at the computers in the Library Reading Room.

You will need 3 high density diskettes. Copies of Grateful Med for Macintosh are found on Pubnet. Be sure to pick up an information packet in the Library. The packet has the list of local phone numbers for Grateful Med dial-up access. The instructions and software also can be downloaded from the Library's Web site at http://libwww. ncrr.nih.gov/grateful.

Mark Your Calendars

The NIH Library will be celebrating **National Library Week** from **April 14–18.** For more details and a listing of upcoming events, check the NIH Library Home Page and Listserv.
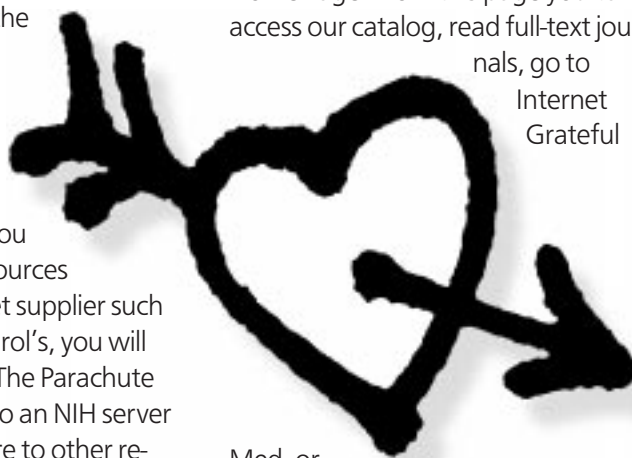
The List Keeps Growing!

The newest additions to the list of **full-text journals** accessible on the **WWW** from the Library's Home Page are:

➠ Annals of Thoracic Surgery
➠ Biochemical Journal
➠ Journal of Clinical Investigation
➠ Pediatrics
➠ Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
➠ Science

Go to **http://libwww.ncrr.nih.gov/secure/wwwjrnl2.htm** to find the complete listing of journals. **Some** of the journals are only available **on a trial basis** as the publishing industry decides what and how to charge for electronic access. *(See the October/November 1996 Library Newsletter for a discussion on how the library selects electronic journals.)*

Science Citation Index test results on back

Results Are In

In November and December 1996, the Library recruited NIH staffers to **test** the functionality of ISI's new software designed to provide **network access** to Science Citation Index (SCI). **SCI,** a product of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), tracks the number of times an **article** is **cited** in the published literature.

Over the years, we have received many requests for SCI to be added to the Library's network resources, so we were eager to see if the new software would meet the needs of Library users. We were particularly interested in **evaluating** the ease of **downloading** and **connecting** to the software, the **speed** of the searches done on the network, and the **user-friendliness** of the search interface.

The test involved **Macintosh, Windows95,** and **Windows 3.1** users. The software accessed the SCI CD-ROMs previously only available from a standalone workstation in the Reading Room, but for the test were running off a CD-ROM tower. Of the original 71 testers who volunteered to download and install the software, and use it to run searches, 39 returned a questionnaire.

The test showed that the **most** responders **liked the idea** of having access to Science Citation Index at their desktop. Many **Windows** users, however, had **difficulty download-**ing the software. In fact, several were never able to download the product even with assistance from NIH library staff. Macintosh users, on the other hand, had no difficulty downloading, installing, and using the software. Both Mac and Windows testers who were able to perform searches were generally satisfied with the results. However, everyone was **unhappy** about the **slowness** of the system, a consequence of accessing CD-ROMs over a network, and the fact that **searches** could only be done **one year at a time.** In addition, Windows users were unhappy about having to use two extra files and icons to connect to the database. A number of them also said they preferred the old DOS access to the Windows version.

The results of this test lead us to believe that this software **does not meet the needs of NIH staff** and it will not be pursued further. However, ISI reports that they will be making a Web version of SCI available sometime in 1997 or 1998. We will explore this option when it is available.

Science Citation Index is still **available** in the Library's **Reading Room** on a standalone computer.

One Stop for Documents

Completed Loan and Photocopy Request forms **(NIH 232)** for various types of materials including books, articles, patents, theses, and audiovisuals can now be **submitted at the Circulation Desk**. Books available in the Library and those received from other libraries through **interlibrary loan** may be **picked up** and **returned** at the Circulation Desk.

Setting your Sites

The Medical Matrix Web site is a comprehensive, **peer reviewed**, annotated database of Internet **clinical medicine resources.** The site can be found at **www.slackinc.com/matrix/.** Medical Matrix currently contains over **2300 entries,** many **full text**, and it is continuously updated. **All** medical **disciplines** are covered. **Resources** are **graded** on a scale of 1–4 **by practicing clinicians** and an editorial board.

This well organized website includes medical **news updates,** directions to full text **journal sites**, and a comprehensive listing of **CME resources** including reviews and courses. Recently released web-based medical resources are featured under the "What's New" pages, and the "Prescription assistance resources" pages list **drug information sites.**